

Please cancels claims 1-28 and add the following new claims.

29. (New) In combination with a fill and drain whirlpool bathtub having a water pump, a closed loop piping system and output jets, the combination further comprising: a suction fitting having a faceplate housing, a faceplate, and an elbow housing; the faceplate housing having an input orifice, and a flange to provide a mount to a bathtub wall and a threaded portion that extends from behind the flange through an opening in a tub, wherein the faceplate housing having a sloped interior wall; the elbow housing having a sloped interior wall, a first end, and an elbow section having an output orifice at a second end extending substantially perpendicular to the first end, wherein the first end of the elbow housing is connected to the threaded portion of the faceplate housing and the output orifice is connected to a pipe of the closed loop piping system at a slanted angle so as to allow water in the piping system to drain out into the bathtub after bathtub drainage; wherein the sloped interior wall of the elbow housing and the sloped interior wall of the faceplate housing is connected to define a sloped interior surface that slopes downward from the output orifice to the input orifice so as to allow water in the piping system to efficiently drain out through the elbow housing and the faceplate housing into the bathtub; and the faceplate having a plurality of water flow through passages in the lower peripheral edge of the faceplate, wherein the faceplate is configured to resist body entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate, and wherein the water flow through passages are sized and positioned to resist hair entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate.

30. (New) In combination with a fill and drain whirlpool bathtub having a water pump, a closed loop piping system and output jets, the combination further comprising: a suction fitting having a faceplate housing, a faceplate, and an elbow; the faceplate housing having an input orifice, and a flange to provide a mount to a bathtub wall and a threaded portion that extends from behind the flange through an opening in a tub, wherein the faceplate housing having a sloped interior wall; the elbow having a sloped interior wall, a first end, and an elbow section having an output orifice at a second end extending

substantially perpendicular to the first end, wherein the first end of the elbow is connected to the threaded portion of the faceplate housing and the output orifice is connected to a pipe of the closed loop piping system at a slanted angle so as to allow water in the piping system to drain out into the bathtub after bathtub drainage; wherein the sloped interior wall of the elbow and the sloped interior wall of the faceplate housing is connected to define a sloped interior surface that slopes downward from the output orifice to the input orifice so as to allow water in the piping system to efficiently drain out through the elbow housing and the faceplate housing into the bathtub; and the faceplate having a plurality of water flow through passages in the lower peripheral edge of the faceplate, wherein the faceplate is configured to resist body entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate, and wherein the water flow through passages are sized and positioned to resist hair entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the suction fitting further comprises a cavitation port.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein at least a segment of said suction fitting is impregnated with an antimicrobial.

33. (New) In combination with a whirlpool bathtub having a water pump, a closed loop piping system and output jets, the combination further comprising: a suction fitting having a faceplate housing, a faceplate, and an elbow; the faceplate housing having an input orifice, and a flange to provide a mount to a bathtub wall and a threaded portion that extends from the flange through an opening in a tub, wherein the faceplate housing having a sloped interior wall; the elbow having a sloped interior wall, a first end, and an elbow section having an output orifice at a second end extending substantially perpendicular to the first end, wherein the first end of the elbow is connected to the threaded portion of the faceplate housing and the output orifice is connected to a pipe of the closed loop piping system at a slanted angle so as to allow water in the piping system to drain out into the bathtub after bathtub drainage; wherein the sloped interior wall of the

elbow and the sloped interior wall of the faceplate housing is connected to define a sloped interior surface that slopes downward from the output orifice to the input orifice so as to allow water in the piping system to efficiently drain out through the elbow housing and the faceplate housing into the bathtub; and the faceplate having a plurality of water flow through passages in the lower peripheral edge of the faceplate, wherein the faceplate is configured to resist body entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate, and wherein the water flow through passages are sized and positioned to resist hair entrapment when high velocity water is passing through the faceplate.

Respectfully,



Roy W. Mattson Jr.

May 2, 2005

303-776-4114